

Health district board to put levy before voters

By April Sykes
The Morrow County Health District, at their regular meeting Monday night in Heppner, voted to put a six-year levy before the voters for operating funds at a rate of .39 cents per thousand valuation. The district's current .39 cent levy is set to expire and board members agreed that with an uncertain future, especially the upcoming closure of the coal-fired plant in Boardman, which puts around \$200 thousand in tax monies a year into the district's coffers, it would only be prudent to seek another levy. The coal-fired plant is scheduled to close in 2020.

The board approved contract changes with Dr. Ed Berretta and an extension to allow additional time for the district and Dr. Berretta to continue to negotiate terms.

The district also approved a proposed contract for Dr. Daniel Hambleton, who has said he intends to move from Alaska to relocate in

Morrow County. MCHD CEO Dan Grigg said that the district was looking at February as a possible start date for Dr. Hambleton.

In the process of negotiating contracts, Grigg has been working to standardize the district's contracts with physicians.

Grigg and Chief Financial Officer Nicole Mahoney told the board that the district has agreed to continue accepting Family Care or Premier Care, a Medicare Advantage insurance plan. The district had earlier announced that they would not accept Family Care, effective Dec. 31, because of the difficulty in communicating with the insurance company (the district's calls to Family Care went unanswered), difficulty in receiving payment from them and other problems. The district then learned that Family Care had been advertising in the district's area and finally received confirmation that

Family Care would be staying in Morrow County in 2014.

"We also have several patients who have expressed concern about the financial hardship they would have if we followed through on our plans to stop accepting that plan," said Grigg. So, after a conference call with Family Care leadership, and "assurances that they would correct the problems that have plagued us for many years—despite unfulfilled promises in past years," the district agreed to continue their relationship with the insurance company with numerous stipulations.

Barbara Huwe from Irrigon attended the Monday night meeting as a new board member, replacing David Burns, Irrigon, who earlier resigned citing personal reasons.

In other business, the board:

- approved a previous
- See HEALTH DISTRICT LEVY/PAGE SEVEN



Barbara Huwe



VOL. 132 N.O. 46 8 Pages Wednesday, November 27, 2013 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

CREZ discusses county-wide housing shortage

Not enough available rentals

By David Sykes
The Columbia River Enterprise Zone board held a lengthy discussion Monday on the continued rental housing shortage in all parts of Morrow County. The board agreed that the problem is only expected to get worse as more jobs are added in the Boardman area. The board also discussed the dual problem

that 80 percent of the people working in Boardman are living elsewhere, mainly in Hermiston and the Tri-Cities, WA.

In response the CREZ has funded a two-pronged housing program not only to aid developers wanting to construct new rental units in Morrow County, but also to provide financial assistance to home buyers

moving into the county. The board has funded the program with \$135,000, but the actual plan is still in the development stages and not yet ready for implementation.

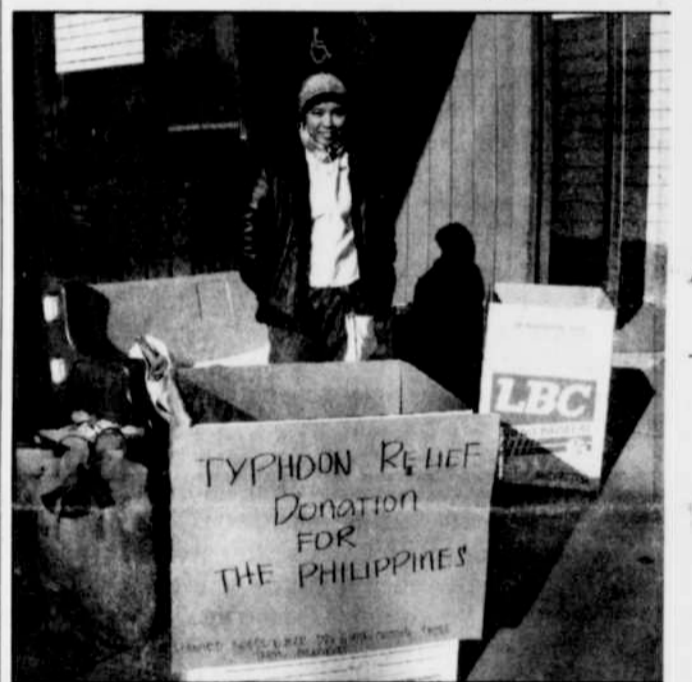
At the invitation of CREZ, two officials from Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation, GEODC, which administers housing programs, attended

the CREZ meeting to discuss how the new programs might be implemented. The CREZ is considering contracting with GEODC to administer its new housing program.

GEODC Executive Director Christine Nelson questioned the wisdom of establishing a financing

-See CREZ TALKS HOUSING/PAGE FOUR

Local woman raising aid for the Philippines



Annabelle Dayandante Campbell

Annabelle Dayandante Campbell, Heppner, is raising donations to aid the people of the Philippines who are suffering from a devastating typhoon.

She has been in front of the Heppner post office for around a week seeking donations. She says that the response in Heppner has been very good; she has filled five boxes, which is even better than when she had been seeking donations in Hermiston.

Rizal, The Philippines. Her mother and one brother live in Hermiston, but she still has two sisters and one brother in The Philippines.

Campbell says that LBC Cargo and Carrier service will ship the items and has said they will waive the shipping costs. Melissa Ann Macarubbo will

-See PHILIPPINE RELIEF/PAGE TWO

Murray family brings third generation into pharmacy business

By Andrea Di Salvo
Murray's Drug is a long-established business in Heppner, and now Laurie Murray is continuing the family business into the third generation.

Murray, 25, is the daughter of Murray's Drug owners Ann and John Murray. The lone female in a family with four brothers—Luke, Sean and Ian in college or graduate studies, and Kevin still attending HHS—she is the third generation of the Murray family to don the title and uniform of the pharmacist. She is the sixth pharmacist in the family, after grandfather Rod Murray, parents John

and Ann Murray, and John's siblings, Mark and Maralee Murray. Sean, who currently has two years left in pharmacy school, will make seven.

Murray started with the pharmacy in mid-September, right after receiving the required certificate from the Oregon Board of Pharmacists.

"You have to have that paper certificate in your hand," says Murray, adding that unlike some certifications, online validation isn't enough. "As soon as that came, I was working."

Murray divides her time between the family's Heppner and Condon stores,

working in rotation with her parents and her grandfather as well as spending two weekends a month filling in at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, OR. She is a full-fledged pharmacist, a title that didn't come without effort.

Murray says being a pharmacist used to "only" require a Bachelor of Pharmacy, a five-year degree, which is what her parents have. Now, though, the bar has been raised, and pharmacists are required to have a Doctor of Pharmacy, or PharmD, degree, which means a total of seven or eight years of college.

Murray says part of this is because of the changing

role of pharmacists. While the work always included more than simply doling out pills, she says pharmacy work is more clinical now; pharmacists have to understand disease states and how the drugs affect diseases and patients, as well as drug interactions. Pharmacists may have to give immunizations, and some pharmacists even run clinics and work closely with doctors.

Murrays says pharmacy work wasn't a given for her, but there was a natural attraction.

"I knew I wanted something in healthcare. I like being with people and interacting with them. I considered nursing but came back to pharmacy because I grew up around it," she says. "I'm interested in helping people know and manage their medicines, because that can be pretty daunting at times. It can get pretty confusing; there's a new drug on the market every week, it seems."

So, after graduating from Heppner High School in 2006, Murray headed to Oregon State University, where she received a

-See THREE GENERATIONS OF PHARMACY/PAGE THREE

Campbell, 36, came to the U.S. from the Philippines in 1996, first living in Hermiston and then moving to Heppner in 2003. She is married to Robert Campbell.

She is from Montalban,

From the 1944 archives of the HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Nov. 23 Named Thanksgiving Day By Governor Snell

Falling in line with the general national celebration, Governor Earl Snell has proclaimed Nov. 23 as Thanksgiving day in Oregon. Consequently, all arrangements for observance are being made this week, with special church services planned for Thanksgiving morning at 10:30 a. m. by the Church of Christ with Rev. Harold Howe delivering the sermon. Invitations are being sent out for the local church spread as Thanksgiving next.

It goes without saying that the business houses will remain closed for the day from the Gazette-Times Thanksgiving week. A notice will carry over the date if any Thanksgiving week observance is not observed.

The local business hours will resume Monday, Dec. 2.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving weekend.

G-T Trophy Corner



Kenzi Hughes, 16, of Heppner took down this monster 6x6 bull elk on her family's property in the Columbia Basin Unit. She shot the elk Friday, Nov. 15, with a 7mm Shooting Times Westerner. Kenzi is the daughter of Kevin and Angie Hughes. -Contributed photo

WE WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY 28TH
FRIDAY 29TH
SATURDAY 30TH
Happy Thanksgiving
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 • 1-800-452-7396 For farm equipment, visit our web site at www.mcgg.net